

3731



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Rickey Rickey D. Hart et al.
Serial No.: 09/875,588
Filing Date: 06/06/2001
Title: SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
USING SAME
Group Art Unit: 3731
Examiner: Julian W. Woo
Attorney's Docket No.: INNO-15 CON 3

Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

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Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby make the following documents of record in the above-identified application:

U.S. Patents

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 3,166,072, issued 01/19/1965 to Sullivan, Jr.
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 3,716,058, issued 02/13/1973 to Tanner, Jr.
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 3,946,740, issued 03/30/1976 to Bassett
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 3,981,051, issued 09/21/1976 to Brumlik
- (5) U.S. Patent No. 4,006,747, issued 02/08/1977 to Kronenthal et al.
- (6) U.S. Patent No. 4,060,089, issued 11/29/1977 to Noiles
- (7) U.S. Patent No. 4,259,959, issued 04/07/1981 to Walker
- (8) U.S. Patent No. 4,316,469, issued 02/23/1982 to Kapitanov
- (9) U.S. Patent No. 4,532,926, issued 08/06/1985 to O'Holla
- (10) U.S. Patent No. 4,548,202, issued 10/22/1985 to Duncan
- (11) U.S. Patent No. 4,635,637, issued 01/13/1987 to Schreiber
- (12) U.S. Patent No. 4,669,473, issued 06/02/1987 to Richards et al.
- (13) U.S. Patent No. 4,688,561, issued 08/25/1987 to Reese
- (14) U.S. Patent No. 4,873,976, issued 10/17/1989 to Schreiber
- (15) U.S. Patent No. 4,884,572, issued 12/05/1989 to Bays et al.
- (16) U.S. Patent No. 4,895,148, issued 01/23/1990 to Bays et al.
- (17) U.S. Patent No. 4,924,865, issued 05/15/1990 to Bays et al.

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- (18) U.S. Patent No. 4,935,028, issued 06/19/1990 to Drews
- (19) U.S. Patent No. 4,976,715, issued 12/11/1990 to Bays et al.
- (20) U.S. Patent No. 4,736,746, issued 04/12/1988 to Anderson
- (21) U.S. Patent No. 4,899,743, issued 02/13/1990 to Nicholson et al.
- (22) U.S. Patent No. 4,943,294, issued 07/24/1990 to Knapp
- (23) U.S. Patent No. 5,312,360, issued 05/17/1994 to Behl
- (24) U.S. Patent No. 5,562,704, issued 10/08/1996 to Tamminmaki et al.
- (25) U.S. Patent No. 5,569,264, issued 10/29/1996 to Tamminmaki et al.
- (26) U.S. Patent No. 5,013,316, issued 05/07/1991 to Goble et al.
- (27) U.S. Patent No. 5,053,047, issued 10/01/1991 to Yoon
- (28) U.S. Patent No. 5,059,206, issued 10/22/1991 to Winters
- (29) U.S. Patent No. 5,129,906, issued 07/14/1992 to Ross et al.
- (30) U.S. Patent No. 5,246,441, issued 09/21/1993 to Ross et al.
- (31) U.S. Patent No. 5,370,646, issued 12/06/1994 to Reese et al.
- (32) U.S. Patent No. 5,827,298, issued 10/27/1998 to Hart et al.

Foreign Patents

- (33) German Patent Application No. DE 2,740,274, published 03/1978
- (34) French Patent Application No. 2,573,647, published 11/1984
- (35) Japanese Patent Application No. 160013, issued 1983

Copies of documents 1-19, 23-31 and 33-35, which are listed on the accompanying Form PTO/SB/08A (Substitute for Form PTO-1449) (2 pages), are located in the file of the related case U.S. Serial No. 08/560,111 filed 11/17/95. A copy of document 32 is located in the file of related case U.S. Serial No. 09/174,814, filed 10/19/98. Copies of documents 20-22 are located in related case U.S. Serial No. 09/340,584, filed 06/28/99. Accordingly, copies of these documents do not accompany this submission. Applicants respectfully request that these documents be fully considered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application and printed on any patent which may issue on this application. Applicants also respectfully request that a copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A (Substitute for Form PTO-1449) (2 pages), submitted herewith, as considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned to the undersigned with the next communication.

It is believed that this disclosure complies with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. If for any reason the Examiner considers otherwise, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be contacted by the Examiner by telephone in order that any deficiencies may be expeditiously remedied.

A check in the amount of One Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$180.00) payable to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks also is enclosed herewith to cover the fee due in connection with this submission.

Please charge any additional fees due in connection with this submission, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0221. A duplicate copy of this submission is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

Thank you.

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January 21, 2004

(DATE OF DEPOSIT)

Scott R. Foster

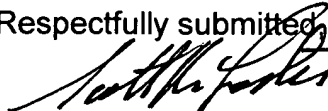
(NAME OF ATTORNEY)

(SIGNATURE)

January 21, 2004

(DATE OF SIGNATURE)

Respectfully submitted,



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